

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I would be happy to renew my request to give, let's say, 15 minutes for tributes to Mr. Liebengood at this point.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Nebraska, the distinguished champion of the Plains, is now recognized.

TRIBUTE TO HOWARD LIEBENGOOD

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I rise, as was noted, to recognize and pay tribute to and remember our dear friend Howard Liebengood. I thought the majority leader's comments concerning Howard Liebengood could have been recited by any and all who knew him. My friendship with Howard Liebengood goes back almost 30 years. When I first became acquainted with Howard and his wife Dee, we would bet on the Kansas State-Nebraska football game every year. I know the Presiding Officer has a passing interest in that game. Howard, each year, would come back for more. These were the days when Kansas State had not defeated Nebraska for many years. But one of the extraordinary parts of this extraordinary man was an optimism, not only about Kansas State football but about life. All that he touched, all he represented, and all who knew him were uplifted by this gentleman, this man who always put his friends first.

I recall when Howard and Dee's children were young, I would occasionally go to their home in Vienna for a little chili cookoff. It was not a big group; it was just us. Howard always had the remarkable ability to reach beyond his professional capacity. After all, we are all judged and will be judged by that dynamic at the end of our lives. It will not be for whatever professional accomplishments we have but it will be for what we have done for others and how we are remembered by others, as was noted by the majority leader in his remarks.

So, today, as I and others rise on behalf of Howard Liebengood, we celebrate his life and his family and all the light that he brought to so many of us for so long. This dear, dear man, we will miss greatly. But he does leave the world better than he found it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished Senator from Utah is recognized.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I have to say that Howard Liebengood was one of my dear friends and I think he was a dear friend to virtually everybody in the Senate on both sides of the aisle. What a good man.

What can I say about Howard Liebengood? That he was a loving, caring family man who placed his lovely wife, Deanna, and their wonderful children, Howie, John, and Ann, above all else? That he was the consummate Capitol insider, who managed to retain humility and kindness while rising to the pinnacle of Washington's power

structure? That he was an accomplished lawyer, businessman, and military hero who never forgot his small-town roots in this often heartless big town? That he was a man of faith, whose church was a source of strength in the hardest of times?

I can say all of these things—and more.

I have been proud and humbled to call Howard Liebengood a friend. He was a trusted adviser to me and so many other Senators. He was my neighbor in Virginia, and we often drove to work together. When I had my Achilles' tendon rupture—completely severed my tendon—Howard and I rode together every day. Those were some of the most wonderful times I've had.

We shared some wonderful times; I always looked forward to his keen observations and his wry good wit and very strong intelligence.

I knew what many in this body knew about Howard, that we could always count on him to listen, and care, and act—not in his own self-interest, but for the greater good.

Howard was so successful in our world, yet he was never driven by money, fame or desire.

His many accomplishments—the Bronze Star, his work in the Senate on the Watergate Committee, as our Sergeant at Arms, as Chief of Staff to two of our greatest Senators—tell volumes about Howard, but they do not reveal the inner peace and calm that made him such a wonderful, wonderful part of this institution, a tribute to all that is good in public service.

What more can you ask in a man?

Nothing.

Howard did it all.

Howard had it all.

His loss is so great. Our loss is so great. This body will mourn his loss for so many years to come.

I know all here today join in sending both our deepest sympathies to the Liebengood family, and our profound admiration for Howard S. Liebengood—husband, father and trusted public servant. I knew him personally very well. He was kind. He was considerate. He was helpful. He was always down the middle. He was someone to rely on.

Let us celebrate his life today and all that was so good in this man, even as we mourn Howard S. Liebengood's tragic passing at too early a time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished Senator from Tennessee is recognized.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, last week Howard Liebengood's best friend, former Senator Fred Thompson, spoke eloquently about his life with Howard over the last 30 years since their time at Vanderbilt Law School. Marty Gold, whom all of us know, spoke about Howard Liebengood in a little different way. The majority leader spoke about him today in still a different way from the experience he had with him in the last few years and especially the last 2 as

his chief of staff. Senator HAGEL and Senator HATCH had something to say, and many others will. So the question might be, What could I add to these eloquent words? What I can add today are some of Howard's own words.

Howard spent the last 2 years doing something that is very special in the Senate. He and my chief of staff Tom Ingram had lunch every week, and their stated objective, among all the other things, was to make sure the Frist staff and the Alexander staff didn't compete with each other but worked together to serve the people of Tennessee.

That may sound to people outside the Senate like the way it always is, but that is not always easy to do. But I think it is fair to say—and a lot of this credit goes to the majority leader because of his attitude and his generous spirit and his unselfishness—our staff worked beautifully together for 2 years. We haven't competed with each other. That is because of the spirit of Howard Liebengood.

As a result, we invited him last September to our staff retreat. We wanted many of the staff members—some of whom are the age of his children or even younger—to hear from him how he views this Senate which was his home really for 30 years, why he loves it so much, and why he conducted himself the way he did in a world that is supposed to be cynical or cutthroat and competitive, where you take yours and the other guy gets his. That wasn't Howard Liebengood at all.

I have a copy of the notes Howard used for that evening. He went on for about an hour, and the staff members told me they wished he had gone on for 2 or 3 hours. He told stories about law school. He told stories about Fred Thompson, the Intelligence Committee, and about Howard Baker—many of the incidents which Senator FRIST talked about. But when he came to the end of his remarks, he said this. I believe perhaps the most important thing I can contribute to this discussion honoring our friend Howard is his own words about why he came and why he stayed in the Senate. He concluded his remarks to our staff last October saying this: "I came for a year."

This is when BILL FRIST asked him to come back.

"And I stayed two."

He said, "It is hard for me to leave the labor of love that is for me the U.S. Senate, the institution herself, in every way. From the people to the protocol and the opportunity to serve the people of Tennessee, I have relished every moment. How blessed I have been," Howard Liebengood told these young staff members, "throughout my life to have these exciting assignments, these remarkable colleagues, spectacular leaders, and challenging work—never a dull moment. I am forever grateful to Fred Thompson for bringing me here and to Howard Baker for keeping me here and being my personal inspiration, to the incomparable BILL

FRIST, whom I admire and enjoy working with, and to my other friends with whom I have served. And finally I thank each of you for having me with you tonight."

The parting thoughts Howard Liebengood said to my staff last September were these: "Always be true to yourself. Trust your best instincts. Serve humbly and unselfishly. Distinguished Senator for whom you work and Tennessee at every turn. Relish your time here. Take pride in your work, but never be haughty. Look out for your colleagues at every turn. And walk with the Lord."

He concluded: "With that formula my experience suggests that both Washington and life will treat you very well. Thank you for having me with you this evening."

I think all of us would say today that Howard treated Washington and life very well, and we are grateful that he came our way.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, are there further tributes to Mr. Liebengood?

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I hope to say a few words about Howard Liebengood.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished Senator from Kentucky is recognized.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I listened carefully to Senator ALEXANDER's observations about our good friend, Howard Liebengood. I first met Howard as he was leaving the Senate. I came here the year Senator Baker retired, and Howard was on the way out. I wasn't sure that I would get to know him because everybody even before I got here—it seemed like everybody I ran into—knew Howard Liebengood. He was part of this institution. He was on the way out as Senator Baker left.

In thinking about the last 20 years—that was 20 years ago—Howard Liebengood really never left the Senate. He was always in this town available as a resource to all of us. I called upon him frequently over the entire period when he was technically not working at the Senate but was in town and providing his good advice to anyone who would ask.

I say to my friend, the junior Senator from Tennessee, and to the majority leader, you were lucky that Howard Liebengood was from Tennessee. I wish he had been from Kentucky. He was a wonderful man and a great part of this institution that we will not soon forget.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise to speak in memory of Howard Liebengood, who passed away on January 13. The majority and minority leaders and other Members of this body have already spoken in Howard's memory. In addition to associating myself with their remarks, I would like to offer a few brief words of reflection on behalf of myself and my wife Jackie, who knew Howard well through her work for Senator Jake Garn of Utah.

As someone who essentially grew up in this institution, I have always had a great deal of respect and affection for the United States Senate. While some today may dismiss the notion as quaint, I continue to regard the Senate as a family—one where personal friendships can transcend ideological beliefs, and one that in its finest moments can rise above party differences to truly make a difference in the lives of the people whom we serve. It is in that spirit that I speak today in memory of Howard—a vital and well-respected member of this family for over 3 decades.

Howard served here in a number of capacities—as minority counsel to the Watergate Committee in the 1970's, where he worked closely with Senator Howard Baker; as Sergeant at Arms from 1981 to 1983; and finally, as chief of staff to Senator Fred Thompson and majority leader BILL FRIST. He also maintained his relationship with the Senate for many years working in Government relations for a variety of clients.

I came to know Howard in 1981 when I entered this body as a freshman Senator, and he began his term as Sergeant at Arms. I gained an immediate and lasting appreciation for Howard—not only as Sergeant at Arms, but as a human being.

The Sergeant at Arms in the Senate is a position that encompasses enormous responsibilities—from security, to printing and graphics, to technology, to recording, to financial operations. To put it quite simply, the day-to-day business here in the United States Senate depends on the Office of the Sergeant at Arms, and on the service of people like Howard.

Howard Liebengood was a man who loved this institution and who loved our country—and that love was reflected in the way he approached his work. Howard was a good and decent man whose humor, calm, and patience were well-known to all of us who were fortunate to know him. He was an individual who worked well with Senators and staff from both parties. Howard always impressed me as someone who cared more about the Senate, and the role it plays in our democracy, than he did about advancing any particular party's agenda. In all the positions he occupied in the Senate, he always cared deeply about the things that unite us as Americans, rather than those that divide us along partisan political lines. He understood that the strength of the Senate as an institution and its significance in shaping our history reside in the ability of its Members to reconcile differences for the good of our Nation.

This institution and our Nation are indebted to Howard for his years of service. I offer my deepest sympathies to Howard's wife Dee and their three children.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join the distinguished majority leader, Mr. FRIST, as a cosponsor

of his resolution honoring the memory of Howard Liebengood.

Howard was a good friend of mine and a very trustworthy officer of the U.S. Senate. I first go to know him when he worked as a member of the staff of the Senator from Tennessee, Mr. Baker.

He later served as Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper when Senator Baker was the Republican leader.

It was my pleasure to know Howard's family as well. His wife Deanna was a very important asset and an admired and respected member of the Senate family.

We will miss Howard's ready smile and his keen insight on the issues facing our country. He was truly a wonderful person and a loyal friend.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it is my understanding that the tributes to Mr. Liebengood have been taken from the morning business time allotted to the Republican side.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mr. DURBIN. How much time is remaining on each side in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 17 minutes on the majority side and 25 minutes on the minority side.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that Senator COLLINS be recognized on the Republican morning business side, and I will follow her with the remaining time on the Democratic side.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The distinguished Senator from Maine is recognized.

Ms. COLLINS. Thank you, Mr. President. I thank my colleague from Illinois for his courtesy.

(The remarks of Ms. COLLINS pertaining to the submission of S. Res. 8 are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I didn't know Mr. Liebengood, but I listened closely to the tributes made today. He clearly was an extraordinary person who touched the hearts of many in the United States on both sides of the aisle. There are so many like him who give a great contribution to this institution. I hope when the time comes they will receive the same memorial and tributes as Mr. Liebengood received today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. MURKOWSKI). The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. It is my understanding on the Democratic side we have 25 minutes remaining in morning business; on the Republican side, how much time remains?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 5 minutes remaining on the Republican side.